AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (**Currently Amended**) An immunoagglutination immunoassay for detecting and quantifying a target substance in a test sample comprising:

(a) bringing a test sample into contact with an agent that inhibits a decrease in measured values, wherein said decrease is caused by an interfering substance(s) present in the test sample; and

(b) subjecting the test sample to an antigen-antibody reaction with sensitized particles or with an anti-serum,

~~mixing a test sample with an agent that inhibits a decrease in measured values in immunoagglutination immunoassays, wherein said decrease is caused by an interfering substance(s) present in the test sample,~~

wherein said agent is an ionic surfactant having a molecular weight of 1000 to 100,000, and said ionic surfactant being a polymer in which a hydrophobic cyclic monomer(s) having an ionic functional group(s) is(are) polymerized to form a mixture of said test sample and said agent[[.]],

wherein the sensitized particles of the antiserum specifically react with the target substance, and

wherein upon performing steps (a) and (b), the target substance is capable of being detected or quantified.

11. (**Canceled**)

12. (**Currently Amended**) The immunoassay according to claim [[11]] 10, wherein said test sample is a biological sample.

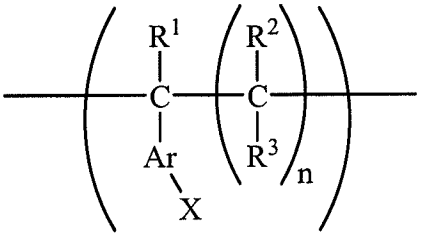
13. (Original) The immunoassay according to claim 12, wherein said test sample is blood, serum or blood plasma.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The immunoassay according to claim [[11]] 10, wherein the concentration of said agent for inhibiting the decrease in measured values in immunoassays in reaction solution is 0.01% to 5% (weight/volume).

15-20. (Canceled)

21. **(Canceled)**

22. **(Currently Amended)** The immunoassay according to claim [[11]] 10, wherein said polymer comprises a recurring unit represented by the following Formula [I]:



[I]

wherein Ar represents a hydrophobic ring; X represents the ionic functional group; R^1 to R^3 independently represent hydrogen or alkyl; n represents an integer of 0 to 10; hydrogen atom(s) bound to a carbon atom(s) constituting Ar optionally being substituted with a substituent(s) which does(do) not adversely affect the effect of the present invention.

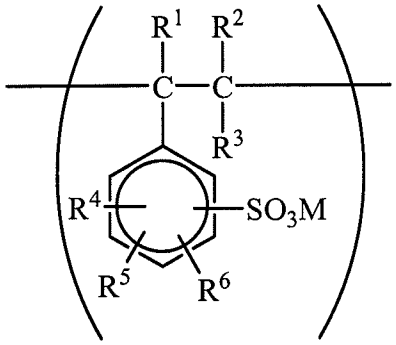
23. **(Currently Amended)** The immunoassay according to claim [[11]] 10 or 22, wherein said hydrophobic cyclic monomer is an aromatic monomer.

24. (Previously Presented) The immunoassay according to claim 23, wherein said aromatic monomer has a benzene ring.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The immunoassay according to claim [[11]] 10, wherein said ionic functional group is sulfonic group or a salt thereof, carboxylic group or a salt thereof, or an amine.

26. (Previously Presented) The immunoassay according to claim 25, wherein said ionic functional group is sulfonic group or a salt thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) The immunoassay according to claim 22, wherein said recurring unit is represented by the following Formula [II]:



[II]

wherein M represents an atom or a group which becomes a monovalent cation in aqueous solution; R^1 to R^3 have the same meanings as said R^1 to R^3 in said Formula [I]; and R^4 to R^6 independently represent hydrogen, lower alkoxyl or lower alkyl.

28. (Previously Presented) The immunoassay according to claim 25, wherein said recurring unit is an anethole sulfonic acid salt or styrene sulfonic acid salt.

29. **(Canceled)**

30. **(Canceled)**